



JEREMIAH PROGRAM

What We Do

Jeremiah Program is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization whose proven, holistic approach transforms families from poverty to prosperity two generations at a time. Through *safe and affordable housing, quality early childhood education, life skills training and support for career-track education*, Jeremiah Program prepares determined single mothers to excel in the workforce, readies their children to succeed in school, and reduces generational dependence on public assistance. Jeremiah Program currently has two fully operational sites in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN; a new campus in development in Austin, TX; and exploration underway with leaders in Fargo-Moorhead and at Endicott College in Boston.

Why We Do It

- More than 18 million children in the U.S. are living in poverty with single mothers. They lack access to quality early childhood education and are living in unstable environments.
- Children in poverty start school behind their peers and, despite their innate cognitive ability, find it virtually impossible to ever catch up.
- Many young, single mothers, even those with strong determination to attend college, must defer dreams to deal with harsh economic realities. These mothers then face higher unemployment rates and often are dependent upon public assistance.

The Families We Serve

- Low-income single mothers, at least 18 years of age (average age is 24)
- High school graduate (or GED) enrolled in a post-secondary institution
- Mothers are isolated, living without much hope, almost always dependent upon public assistance, and often dealing with issues of abuse, addiction and lack of self-confidence
- Children are ages 6 weeks–5 years old, 5% diagnosed with special needs

Our Successful Outcomes

- 61% of women enter Jeremiah Program unemployed and remaining 39% are earning an average of \$9.46/hour; upon graduating, the average for all participants is \$19.35/hour.
- All graduates obtain either a bachelor's or associate's degree.
- 100% of Jeremiah children demonstrate cognitive and physical growth consistent with national averages and 95% pass kindergarten readiness test. Alumnae surveys show that 93% of children performing at or above grade level.
- 90% maintain consistent employment and 70% of alumnae received a raise and/or an increase in responsibility after 12 months.
- Independent evaluation by Wilder Research shows that every \$1 invested in a Jeremiah family can return up to \$4 to society through decreased dependence upon public assistance and increased taxable earnings in mothers (first generation), and reduced costs associated with crime and use of special education and increased lifetime earnings in children (second generation).

The Jeremiah Program Approach in Detail

Life Skills & Empowerment Training

- Mothers required to complete 16-week Personal Empowerment class before becoming residents.
- Unique Life Skills curriculum focuses on parenting and child development, health and wellness, financial literacy, career development and economic independence.
- Each woman assigned a life skills coach for one-on-one support.
- Result: Women develop social capital and relationships in the wider community, decreasing isolation. Empowerment changes mindset from victim to powerful self. As result, parents are more capable of managing finances, life challenges, and, most importantly, their future.

Safe & Affordable Housing

- Fully furnished, campus-style housing
- Residents pay no more than 30% of their income for rent (average \$135/month)
- Located near educational institutions, employment opportunities, public transportation
- Secure, supportive environment

Quality Early Childhood Education

"Quality early childhood education, as offered at Jeremiah Program, is one of the best and most cost effective investments we can make in our community." —Arthur Rolnick, Retired Senior Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

- All children receive Individualized Education Plans
- High-Scope curriculum for children ages six weeks through pre-school
- Both Minneapolis and St. Paul Child Development Centers have highest possible rating from MN Parent Aware Quality Rating System
- Parents acquire skills to help their children excel throughout their educational careers

Support for Career-Track Education

- Each woman enrolled in a two- or four-year college program at time she moves onto Jeremiah campus. Enrollment must be at an educational institution that:
 - Offers students opportunity to improve their economic prospects commensurate with cost of tuition
 - Is financially healthy
 - Offers career counseling
 - Is willing to work with Jeremiah staff to identify women qualified for admission
 - Provides appropriate services for single mothers on their campus
- Employment Readiness: Jeremiah Works! directly links women to employment advocates from local corporations to create career pathways.
- Coaching provided on critical achievements such as resume writing, interviewing skills, career options, internships and job shadowing.